

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 158598
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
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PM:JKAHAN
ACDA/ISP:JNEWHOUSE
DOD/ISA:LFINCH
NSC:GTREVERTON
INR:RBAR;Z
S/S:DANDERSON
EUR/RPM:SLEDOGAR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

S E C R E T STATE 158598

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM, FR
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PAGE 02 STATE 158598

SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
IN EUROPE: THE MBFR CONNECTION

REF: STATE 135540 (DTG 270025Z MAY 78)

1. WITH THE NEW EASTERN MBFR COUNTERPROPOSALS ON THE

TABLE IN VIENNA, AND THE ALLIANCE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A NEW PACKAGE OF MBFR ASSOCIATED MEASURES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE AVOID LETTING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE UNDERCUT THE VIENNA TALKS. GIVEN PRESIDENT GISCARD'S IDENTIFICATION WITH THE PROPOSAL WE CANNOT FLATLY DISMISS OR IGNORE IT. OUR INITIAL COMMENTS, HOWEVER, SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MBFR AT THIS POINT, AND MAKE CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT TAKE A FORMAL POSITION ON DETAILS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL UNTIL THERE HAVE BEEN THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS IN THE ALLIANCE.

2. EMBASSY PARIS SHOULD TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THE POINTS IN PARAS 3 - 11 BELOW TO THE QUAI. USNATO SHOULD DRAW ON THESE POINTS IN COMMENTING ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. LONDON AND BONN SHOULD INFORM

FCO/FOREIGN OFFICE THAT WE ARE COMMENTING INITIALLY TO THE FRENCH ALONG THESE LINES. FYI. WE WILL STRESS THESE POINTS TO UK AND FRG REPS DURING MBFR BILATERALS THIS WEEK AND NEXT IF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MBFR AND THE FRENCH-PROPOSED CONFERENCE ARISES. END FYI.

3. WE WELCOME THIS DEMONSTRATION OF FRENCH INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE.

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4. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE RELATES DIRECTLY TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS AND ARMS CONTROL OBJECTIVES OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

5. THE ALLIANCE IS THUS THE PROPER FORUM FOR CONSIDERING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. FRANCE HAS RECOGNIZED THIS POINT BY RAISING IT AT THE NATO SUMMIT MAY 31.

6. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSALS IN BRUSSELS. FULL CONSIDERATION IN NATO IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE WE CAN REACH A POSITION ON THE IDEAS THE FRENCH HAVE OFFERED.

7. WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL DOES NOT UNDERCUT PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT IN MBFR. THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDE A WELL-ESTABLISHED FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL IN THE AREA OF PRINCIPAL CONCERN.

8. THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN MBFR INITIATIVE SUGGESTS THAT THEY FEEL THE NEED TO TAKE WESTERN MBFR OBJECTIVES

SERIOUSLY. IF WE CAN BREAK THE DATA IMPASSE, EASTERN
ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN
POSITION COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS, SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS
ON REDUCTIONS.

9. WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE WEST
CAN BUILD UPON THE EASTERN MOVE AND BREAK THE VIENNA
DEADLOCK, IT IS IMPORTANT NOW THAT WE NOT DISTRACT
ATTENTION AND IMPETUS FROM VIENNA BY OPENING UP ANOTHER
NEGOTIATION.

10. AS FRANCE IS AWARE, NATO IS EXAMINING A NEW PACKAGE OF
ASSOCIATED MEASURES FOR MBFR. THE CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY
FRANCE WOULD DILUTE THIS EFFORT BY TREATING SIMILAR
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MEASURES IN ITS FIRST PHASE. WE BELIEVE OUR ENERGIES
SHOULD BE FOCUSED NOW ON MPFR, HERE NATO CONSULTATIONS
ON SUCH MEASURES ARE ALREADY WELL ADVANCED.

11. NATO MIGHT WISH TO LOOK AT THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND CSCE/CBMS, AS WELL
AS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSED
BY FRANCE MIGHT BE A USEFUL SEQUEL TO AN MBFR
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PAGE 01 STATE 158598
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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T STATE 158598

FOL STATE 158598 SENT ACTION USNATO PARIS LONDON BONN INFO
MBFR VIENNA GENEVA MOSCOW USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
JUNE 21, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 158598

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

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VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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